

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TAGS: ELAB, JO, OTRA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF JORDANIAN LABOR LEADER TO U.S.

1. ALI BENI-HANI, RECENTLY RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF IRBID ELECTRICAL WORKERS' UNION AND CANDIDATE FOR LEADERSHIP POSITION IN JFTU, PLANS VISIT U.S. FOR ONE TO TWO MONTHS FOLLOWING APRIL 15 JFTU ELECTIONS. WHILE IN U.S. BENI-HANI WISHES CONTACT COUNTERPART U.S. LABOR LEADERS. HE IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING IDEAS IN FIELD OF UNION PROVIDED SOCIAL SERVICES FOR WORKERS.

2. JFTU SECGEN SHAHER MAJALI HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN CONTACTING DOL AND AAFLI TO ARRANGE U.S. PROGRAM FOR BENI-HANI AND IN FUNDING HIS ROUND TRIP TRAVEL NEW YORK/LOS ANGELES. (ALIA AIRLINES AND JFTU ARE PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR COST OF ROUND-TRIP AIR-FARE AMMAN/NY.) AT THIS STAGE BENI-HANI ABLE TO PROVIDE LRO ONLY WITH ROUGH IDEA OF TRAVEL PLANS, AS EXACT DEPARTURE DATE DEPENDS ON WHETHER OR NOT HE SUCCEEDS IN BID FOR TOP JFTU JOB. HE WILL IN ANY CASE LEAVE AMMAN BETWEEN APRIL 15 AND 21 AND TRAVEL DIRECT TO LOS ANGELES WHERE HE HAS BROTHER WHO IS SCHEDULED TO UNDERGO SURGERY. DATE OF SURGERY NOT YET SET. HE WILL SPEND APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS WITH FAMILY IN LOS ANGELES AND IS AVAILABLE FROM THEN ON FOR FULL PROGRAM OF LABOR AND UNION RELATED ACTIVITIES. HE IS NOT PLANNING PRIVATE TRAVEL TO ANY OTHER PART OF U.S. BUT LOOKS FORWARD TO VISITING WHAT-
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EVERY AREAS AAFLI AND/OR DOL CONSIDER APPROPRIATE AND USEFUL FOR HIS ORIENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS. HE SPEAKS NO ENGLISH.

3. AS MENTIONED BY LRO TO AAFLI DIRECTOR PALADINO AND DOL'S MATTSON DURING RECENT NEW DEHLI LABOR CONFERENCE, BENI-HANI IS AMONG MOST SOCIAL SERVICE ORIENTED OF JORDAN'S LABOR LEADERS. THE NINE MONTHS HE SPENT IN USSR SEVERAL YEARS AGO

CONFIRMED HIM IN HIS STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST BELIEFS LEADING HIM
AND SEVERAL OF HIS COLLEAGUES TO BE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED OVER
INCREASE DURING PAST YEAR IN SOVIET COURTING OF LOCAL UNION
MEMBERS AND LABOR LEADERS. HE BELIEVES BEST AVENUE OF RESPONSE
IS TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH U.S. COUNTERPART UNIONS, IN HOPES OF
EXPANDING ON AAFLI'S PROJECTS AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. MISSION
BELIEVES BENI-HANI WILL DERIVE CONSIDERABLE BENEFIT FROM AAFLI/DOL
PROGRAMMING. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY REACTION TO PROPOSAL IN
ORDER FOLLOW UP ON TRAVEL DETAILS WITH BENI-HANI.
SUDDARTH

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